

Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help

Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

selfhelp.vacourts.gov



How We Can Help You

Court employees and librarians must be neutral and impartial, and can give legal information. Only a lawyer representing you can give you legal advice.

We can:

- Provide you with the number of a local lawyer referral service, legal services program or other service where you can get legal help.
- Give you information about law libraries and online resources.
- Explain and answer questions about how the court works.
- Give you general information about court rules, procedures and practices.
- Provide you with available court forms and instructions.
- Provide court schedules and information on how to get a case scheduled.
- Provide you information from your case file.
- Answer some basic questions about court deadlines and how they are determined.
- Provide additional assistance in some circumstances to aid you if you have special needs.
- Provide information, brochures and contact information about mediation and ADR programs in your court.

We cannot:

- Tell you whether or not you should bring your case to court.
- Tell you what words to use in your papers. We can, however, check your papers for completeness before you file them.
- Tell you what to say in court.
- Give you an opinion about what will happen if you bring your case to court.
- Talk to the judge for you.
- Let you talk to the judge outside of court.
- Change an order signed by a judge.
- Give you information about a judge's decision until the judge makes that decision public.
- Give you information that we would be unable or unwilling to provide to the other side in your case.
- Interpret court documents or tell you what you "should" do.

Printed: December 1, 2016

<http://selfhelp.vacourts.gov/node/15/how-we-can-help-you>

